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CIA Retains Its Lease on Dangerous Secrecy

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. JOHN E. MOSS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1966

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Sacramento Bee on August 1, 1966, editorially comments upon recent developments relating to the CIA. It seems that this Agency has recently been involved in a series of episodes more nearly resembling the script of "Batman" than that of a responsible agency of the Government, with tremendous power for good or evil, with the ability to constructively or destructively contribute to the image of the United States.

I derive no pleasure from finding myself in agreement with the criticism which has been more recently directed against the Agency, but I must confess that after the most careful and thought-

ful evaluation, I think the time for closer congressional supervision and audit has long since passed and failure now to recognize it is a failure to discharge our responsibilities to the American people. There is a widespread suspicion, which is not without basis in fact in the eyes of some, that the CIA has operated on occasion outside the law right here at home. This is an allegation which deserves—indeed requires—further examination.

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In the area of secrecy all kinds of evils and suspicions grow. The United States Senate itself incurred some of the suspicion that has been directed against the Central Intelligence Agency when it closed its doors to the public and voted 61-28 not to broaden its "surveillance" of the CIA.

Before the Senate was a resolution to broaden the Senate committee "supervising" the CIA to include some members from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT of Arkansas.

Final Senate action sent the controversial resolution to the Senate Foreign Services Committee, where it will surely die, since its chairman, Senator RICHARD B. RUSSELL, is strongly opposed to it.

RUSSELL wants to confine Senate "supervisory" powers over the CIA to its present seven-man committee drawn from the Foreign Services and Appropriations Committees.

The Senate has thereby failed to furnish the towering CIA, now bigger than the State Department, with the congressional overlook essential to public confidence and possibly to national safety.

The present CIA watchdog committee has not been allowed to supervise, according to RUSSELL's own admission. After the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, RUSSELL said he never had been apprised of the invasion plan and, if he had, he would have opposed it. Under the present CIA directives it is obliged to advise only the National Security Council a limited obligation which enables it to stay within the shadows of secrecy.

The CIA may not actually make policy but there is strong evidence it can create situations which do make policy. This was so in the intervention of the U.S. in the Dominican Republic, in the Bay of Pigs, in the installation of Ngo Dinh Diem as a preliminary to giving the U.S. lodgement in South Viet Nam, in its enterprise in Iran and Guatemala.

Matters have now reached a point where almost every coup in the world is attributed by most nations to the CIA. Both its activities and its suspected ones are so vital to the national safety that it should be kept under the tight control of the president and certainly under the inspection at least, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.